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Letter dated 22 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter of 30 May 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Canada, Ghana, India, Jordan, the Netherlands and New Zealand addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/535), I am pleased to provide herewith Pakistan's proposal for strengthening cooperation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Shamshad **Ahmad**

01-42413 (E) 250601

Annex to the letter dated 22 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept paper on the core group

Introduction

1. This paper elaborates the essential elements of the core group concept proposed by Pakistan. The aim of this paper is not to supplant other proposals made for strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries by other Member States but to improve on them. To this extent, this paper acknowledges similar proposals, including that of Canada, and hopes to build upon some of the key elements therein.

2. The core group proposal is a mission-specific one and is aimed at strengthening and formalizing the three-way relationship between the Security Council, troop contributors and the Secretariat in a meaningful and results-oriented way in order to enhance managerial efficiency and improve the operational effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Concept

i. The Security Council or the Secretary-General will authorize the Secretariat to begin the mission planning process.

ii. Once possible contributors of troop contingents are identified for a potential mission, the Secretariat will informally approach them to determine their interest in participating in the proposed mission.

iii. Those States potentially interested in participating in making troop contributions will be invited to participate in survey missions.

iv. Member States that decide to contribute contingents will be invited by the Secretariat to participate in the mission planning process and will also be involved in the preliminary work on discussing the mandate, concept of operations, rules of engagement, etc.

v. The Security Council will establish a peacekeeping operation and simultaneously authorize, under Article 29 of the Charter of the United Nations, the creation of an ad hoc core group, involving all Member States providing troop contingents for that particular mission.

Consultations

i. Meetings will occur in the following three forms:

   (a) **Informal consultations**: which would be informal discussions between core group members, in the presence, if required, of the Secretariat.

   (b) **Formal meetings**: of the core group with the Secretariat and Security Council members present.

   (c) **Special private meetings of the Security Council**: under Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations.

ii. Informal consultations will provide for the core group members an opportunity to discuss issues among themselves or with the Secretariat; the formal meetings will involve Security Council members and will be geared to evolving a written set of recommendations, which will then be discussed in the Security Council.

iii. Meetings, both informal or formal, will be held when considering a new mandate, renewal or modification or termination of the mandate, a significant or serious political, military or humanitarian development, a rapid deterioration of the security situation on the ground, withdrawal or scaling-down in the size of the operation, as well as the transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-building.

iv. Informal consultations will have no recommendatory authority. Such meetings could be called by any core group member or by the Secretariat in case a briefing is in order.

v. Informal consultations will be truly informal and interactive. Participation of non-core group member States may also be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

vi. Formal meetings will be held to ensure a comprehensive consideration of critical issues relating to that specific peacekeeping operation.

vii. The working methods of the formal core group meetings are as follows:

(a) The purpose of a formal meeting is to come up with a series of recommendations that would be submitted to the Security Council.

(b) Formal meetings can be called by either the President of the Security Council or by a core group member, but will be presided over by the President of the Council.

(c) The participants will include core group and the Security Council members and the Secretariat.

(d) The tone of the discussions, however, will be informal in nature so as to encourage maximum interaction and exchange of views.

(e) The Chairman would endeavour to channel the discussions towards a results-oriented outcome, not necessarily a consensus.

(f) The outcome of the meeting would be to provide the Secretariat and the Security Council, respectively, with a set of recommendations to be subsequently submitted to the Security Council for due consideration. The recommendations can even come in the form of various alternative options in the absence of a consensus.

(g) The recommendations of the formal core group meeting will be presented to the Security Council and the Council members would consider the recommendations and decide on merit which ones to include in its decision-making, including its resolutions or in its instructions to the Secretariat.

viii. Special meetings of the Security Council will take place when it is considering a mandate or a change in the mandate that authorizes the use of force. In accordance with Article 44 of the Charter, those States members of the core group whose troops will be likely to carry out the necessary use of force will

be invited to sit in the Council during its meetings, including the Council's informal consultations on the subject. Core group members will participate in the formulation of and negotiations on the draft resolution but they will not be allowed to table draft resolutions or participate in the vote in the Security Council.

Coordination

i. The core group will discuss and review all aspects of the peacekeeping operation from its inception to its termination.

ii. The core group will be kept informed by the Secretariat, especially through informal consultations, about the peacekeeping operation in all its aspects. Assessment meetings will be held between the core group and the Secretariat at the appropriate stages of each operation in order to factor core group thinking into operational planning.

iii. The Secretariat will ensure that the briefing provided to the core group will be at least identical to that which it provides the Security Council. Greater elaboration by the Secretariat on operational and security issues will, however, be expected.

iv. The Secretary-General will include information on his consultations with the core group in his reports to the Security Council and will undertake to take their recommendations into account when taking decisions on such operations.

v. While the Secretariat will provide its own recommendations based on its information from the field, these will be first reviewed by the core group before being acted upon by the Security Council.

Considerations

i. The Security Council would at all times retain the right to make decisions.

ii. The establishment of the core group will supplant any existing "groups of friends".

iii. The above concept, which is fully consistent with Articles 29, 43 and 44 of the Charter, also respects all articles under Chapter V of the Charter pertaining to the rights and responsibilities of the Security Council.